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TALKING POINTS ON RWANDA
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...My concern is how we can facilitate the rapid deployment of UN Troops to Rwanda to prevent further massacres rather than to go in later and deplore them.

...Not only is it important to save lives, but the future implementation of a lasting peace may very well depend upon this action.

...For these reasons I was very disappointed in the U. S. position of stalling the decision to bring in 5500 troops from African nations with an expanded peace keeping mission as a part of the new UNAMIR II.

...The Arusha agreement which calls for a future government representative of both Hutus and Tutsis will never be implemented if one side wins the war as the Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) seems to be doing we will have a minority of 15 % Tutsi rule a country of 85% Hutus.

...For this reason it is imperative to provide UN Troops in Kigali and western Rwanda as well as the Tanzania border to stop the killing by the Hutus.

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...Displaced persons inside Rwanda outnumber by a factor of five to one those in refugee camps on the Tanzania border.

...Again I was disappointed that the U. S. spokesperson in the National Security Council earlier stated the US feels the UN should limit their efforts to the border area, and then reverse themselves in a briefing by State Department held May 23rd in which they now say the UN Force when deployed will work its way inside the country. All of this is stalling the process.

...Refugee experts would agree that building up camps that provide food and shelter along a border only act as a magnet to draw more people out of the country and into refugee status.

...Inside Rwanda I would visualize the UN Forces setting up protective areas where displaced persons are concentrated. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has already clarified that the role of UN Troops in this expanded mission would be to:

- ..provide security assistance to humanitarian organizations in their programs for distribution of relief supplies.

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..would establish access to sites where displaced persons are concentrated and assure their protection.

..enforcement action would be permitted in cases where self-defence against persons or groups who threaten protected sites.

...While the mission is not to stop the fighting, I believe the very presence of these troops would have a calming effect as one of the motivating factors to continue the war has been the human rights abuses.

...While there has been concern that African countries would volunteer for this effort I was pleased to hear that President Rawlings of Ghana is willing to send troops on the proviso that the U. S. help out with logistics and equipment. Today's paper (May 25th) announced that Ethiopia and Senegal will also volunteer troops. It is also known that Italy will volunteer troops although this is yet to be confirmed.

...The Administration talks about providing military logistical support in briefings but does not declare this publicly.

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In the British Parliament opposition members asked Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd why Britain was not sending peacekeeping troops to Rwanda as it had to Bosnia. "Is there one law for Europeans and another for black Africans?" was the question asked by member Kim Howells.

...In a letter from the Congressional Black Caucus sent to President Clinton on May 4th, we called upon the U.S. to take aggressive leadership in the Security Council to back the Secretary General's recommendations, and to provide our expert military logistical support. Since Belgium and France are considered partial to the various factions in Rwanda, this responsibility would fall mainly to the U. S., Canada and the United Kingdom.

...Some people will compare these recommendations to the Somali situation. In doing this we should remember that the US and other UN allies were responsible for saving 400,000 lives from starvation.

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...Furthermore, we are not suggesting the use of U. S. troops, although it is difficult to rationalize this when we have U. S. Troops on the ground in Macedonia and with the Kurds in northern Iraq.

...We have already used U. S. air power in Bosnia to protect the suffering civilian population there.

...I would remind you that there have been more people killed in Rwanda in six weeks than in the two years of civil war in Bosnia.

...I find it very difficult to reconcile the inconsistency of our foreign policy, and wonder how much our foreign policy priorities are based upon race.

...Especially at a time the United Nations Human Rights forum will be meeting in Geneva and questions of genocide will be posed. Certainly, what is going on in Rwanda is genocide.